

REMARKS

A Notice of Appeal was filed on June 7, 2006. The rejections of claims 1-12 and 21-29 were appealed.

The claim amendments above are made to reduce the number of issues for appeal. Specifically, claims 1-6, 8, 21-24 and 27 are cancelled; dependent claims 7 and 9-12 are rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of cancelled base claim 1; dependent claims 25 and 26 are rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of cancelled base claim 22; and dependent claims 28 and 29 are rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of cancelled base claim 27. Claims 13, 30 and 36-37, which were previously withdrawn from consideration, are also cancelled.

An appeal brief has not yet been filed.

Entry of the amendments above is respectfully requested pursuant to 37 CFR 41.33 and MPEP 1206.

Respectfully submitted,

/Hugh Gortler #33,890/
Hugh P. Gortler
Reg. No. 33,890

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400
(949) 454-0898

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